

From: Jonathan A. George
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft Monopoly Conduct Remedies -- Mitigation Concerns

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This case demands firm guarantees protecting Free Market competition from classic suppression by monopolistic opportunism. In other words:

1. As an existing monopoly Microsoft should be prevented from making exclusionary or secret contracts with customers. These contracts only serve to perpetuate unfair monopolization of market competition and suppression of alternate sources of innovation. Today it is virtually impossible to buy a commodity PC from even one of the dominant vendors with a non-Microsoft Operating System without the unit cost of the Microsoft Operating system being included. Furthermore, Microsoft licenses even prevent selling a machine with their Operating System co-installed by the PC vendor even when all normal licensing costs have been paid.

2. As an existing monopoly of Office Application and Operating Systems Microsoft should be required to publish comprehensive interface documentation on the standards their monopoly has created. This documentation is needed for both commercial and non-commercial entities to be able to write competitive software able to run "MS-Windows" software (i.e. Linux+Wine) or manage "MS-Windows" networks (i.e. Linux+Samba). Leaving the door open for fees, delays, or restrictive licenses on this important information is a crushing blow to the struggling attempts to develop even limited options for consumers in the hope of re-invigorating Free Market competition.

In the American Democracy we ask our Government and Judiciary to protect our freedoms and opportunities, and I hope that the lure of autocratic wealth and power don't outweigh in interests of the people.

Sincerely,
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